

Outline of Comments from the Barrington Area Council of Governments  
STB Hearing, January 9, 2008  
Regarding Canadian National Rail Road Purchase of EJ&E Rail Road

- BACOG - regional planning organization since 1970
- Purview includes: planning, land use, environment, transportation, community development, legislation, technology, training, other
- 80 square mile area, in parts of 4 counties, 9 local government members
- Our concerns about CN include:
  - Economic -- will split Village, crush the downtown, retail activity, overall stability and economic vitality of Barrington
  - Safety
    - Potential for accidents at 4 crossings within Barrington and 8 crossings throughout BACOG
    - Inability for emergency vehicles and personnel to get through due to traffic gridlock (mile long trains potentially could block all 4 Barrington crossings), to emergency sites and hospitals.
    - Potential for toxic spills: Freight to include steel, coal, plastics and processing industries; will carry chemicals in highly populated areas; spills.
    - Schools - school bus crossings daily are nearly 400 per day; additional public safety issues in a unit district that requires this movement of children.
  - Transportation/Traffic
    - Disrupts traffic patterns on major arterials and local roads, far-reaching effects
    - Local traffic congestion increase with a host of side effects, e.g., increased fuel use because of idling, particulates and contaminants emissions to air
    - Increased noise levels
  - Environmental Quality
    - Traffic congestion/gridlock will increase astronomically
    - Rail improvements, double-tracking and other changes will disturb wildlife movement and habitat through pollution, vibrations, construction, reduced habitat
    - Cook County/Crabtree, Lake County/Cuba Marsh, Cook County/Spring Creek Forest Preserve, plus low-density open space
    - Destroy rare native species found along rail
    - Groundwater dependency, recharge areas may be disrupted - BACOG research; will be looking at impacts in relation to groundwater
  - Land use
    - This is a community with an articulated regional plan - unique for character, environmental quality & protection. BACOG is a green area, serves to filter the air, recharge the water, shelters rare species of plants and animals. Development to environment balance.
    - CN changes will substantially disrupt planning and land use, bi-sect the region
    - Negatively affect environmental quality and natural resources
    - Change community character and thus negative effect on property values
    - BACOG planning is linked within (municipal, township plans) and outside to regional plans -- changes here will ripple to changes elsewhere, thwart our ability to carry out all planning

▪ Conclusions

- There will be a great impact on area.
- Impacts should be considered on a long-term basis.
- There are a lot of issues that need significant mitigation.

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